Reduction in period for resumption of commuted value of pension

536. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision in the Central Pension Rules that the payment of commuted value of pension be resumed after 15 years of retirement;

(b) whether there is any proposal to reduce the period from 15 years to 12 years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Under the existing orders the commuted portion of pension is restored after completion of 15 years from the date of commutation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Pesticide poisoning

537. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that pesticides were first developed as patent poisons for chemical warfare and are highly poisonous;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the occupational health hazards for workers, sprayers, and if so, the details of such cases recorded every year for past three years;

(c) whether there are over 50 pesticides factories and 800 formulation plants in the country and if so, the details of illnesses reported/recorded from them, State-wise;

(d) whether pesticide poisoning is proposed to be made notifiable through an ordinance; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Safety of pesticides to man and environment is first scrutinized before allowing its safe and judicious use. Details of occupational health hazards and illnesses are, however, not reported/recorded under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Already suitable provisions exist under Section 26 of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

Development of safe pesticide substitutes

538. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Indian firms are now investing in developing safe pesticide substitutes to replace the pesticides already available in the Rs. 1200 crore pesticide market in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of plant pesticide products available in the market; and

(d) the details of biological pesticides available in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. Several Indian Research Institutions both in private and public sector have made investments aimed at developing and manufacturing safer pesticides and bio-control agents. Amongst the public sector institutions the Indian Institute for Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, and